

cc

Senator Dianne Feinstein

Senator Barbara Boxer

Senator Ernest Hollings

Representative Jane Harman

FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell

FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy

FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps

FCC Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

FCC Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

**From:** lindamayharlow@msn.com  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Oppose media deregulation and demand public hearings

Dear FCC Commissioners and Chairman Powell,

cc my members of Congress

I urge you to vote to protect the public interest by dropping the FCC's plans to end critical safeguards designed to ensure diversity of media ownership and to delay the unnecessarily rushed vote on media ownership scheduled for June 2nd.

Sincerely,  
Linda M Harlow  
1001 Clark Street  
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

**From:** lindamayharlow@msn.com  
**To:** Kathleen Abernathy  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 2:16 PM  
**Subject:** Oppose media deregulation and demand public hearings

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**From:** Lee A. Fairbanks  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 2:22 PM  
**Subject:** Comments to the Commissioner

Lee A. Fairbanks (fairbanks@cvol.net) writes:

Thank you so much for your words at the FCC hearing on June 5th. I support everything that you said. I live in the City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin and almost all of the major radio stations are owned by one company: Central Radio Group. There is little variety and absolutely no left wing view points. This is the market, I fear, that is in danger of being monopolized.

The following is a copy of a letter that I sent to Sen. Rockefeller.

I am very concerned about these new rules and I think if there was one issue for the Democrats today, it's this media consolidation. Without any sort of coverage or backing or fairness when it comes to Liberal ideas and time given to them on the news, we are lost.

I watched almost the entire hearing. I was up till 1:30 in the morning watching this event; it means a lot to me. It worried me that most of the core arguments that you and the other Democrats were making were pretty much being ignored by the Right. The Republican members tried to convince us that we actually had more choice today. It is convenient for them to ignore the fact that any sort of Left-Wing message has vanished.

In the city that I live in, we have about 3 AM channels. None of them play liberal content. I wrote to the General Manager about this two weeks ago and gave him some Left Wing hosts that would balance out the Right Wing Voice. He shot back:

"YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, IT'S ABOUT RATINGS."

This is the core of the problem. These local media corporations are pumping out Right Wing content 24-7 and saying that they have to do it because that is who is listening. Our problem here is that, yes, that is who is listening. There is a reason why this is happening though.

I replied by saying the following:

It's like this: if you turn on the radio and all you hear every time you turn the radio on is static, you stop turning it on. It's not that static isn't popular, it's just, I don't want to hear static. After a while, I stop going there because I know what is going to be there. I have been trained to that response.

Take another example: A test mouse goes to get cheese. Every time it presses one button to get food, it gets a shock. It stops pressing that button; it's been trained. It's not that it doesn't want cheese, it just doesn't want the shock. Basically what this means is that your radio station has done the same thing with the listeners. They have been trained to respond in a certain fashion. People like myself just stay away because it hurts too much. Your faithful conservative listeners, well, they get the "cheese."

He continued to ignore what I said because he was ideologically unable to accept my argument. I think that the whole problem with the FCC hearing was that we (the Left) were talking about the overwhelming Right-Wing content that exists everywhere on the radio and news while the Republicans were talking about the mechanics of the new rules. I personally think they were simply covering their tracks to make it appear that they were being fair.

I think, perhaps, Commissioner Copps got it right when he said, basically, that we can relax the rules if we can guarantee that the consolidation and content are balanced and fair within every market. How do we legislate this without coming out looking like whiners? How can it be legislated fairly? It seems though that the only option that we have within this right-Wing-controlled environment is to ask that the rules not be eroded more. We, the Left, have seen the obvious dangers with this media consolidation. The corporate

line and we get and this is within the framework of the old more restricted rules What will happen next?  
It's only too obvious to us on the Left

"fas-cism (fash'iz'em) n. A system of government that exercises a dictatorship of the extreme right, typically through the merging of state and business leadership, together with belligerent nationalism "

To finish, we have seen what deregulation has given us. What will we now be faced with? Fascism, is that what we have to look forward to? I don't think anyone wants a fascist state but I think the lure of total control of the message is too tempting for them to say no They may not want to see it because it just feels so good to be in control. This could bring our Democracy to it's knees. I am worried...very worried I saw it in Rockefeller's face after finishing. He gave a look to someone on his side as though to say, 'well, I said what I could but it is hopeless.'

Thank you so much for trying.

Here is a link to a daily web broadcast that is left wing in nature. I had to look hard for this. I listen daily to Thom Hartmann and Peter Werbe Please pass these links on to everyone that you think feels left out of the community voice It's refreshing to hear people that are saying the same things that you like to hear

<http://www.reamercaradio.com/>

<http://www.peterwerbe.com/>

[http //www.thomhartmann.com/show.shtml](http://www.thomhartmann.com/show.shtml)

Lee Arthur Fairbanks  
2012 Virginia Lane  
Eau Claire, Wisconsin 54703  
fairbanks@cvol.net or  
lee@artjunky.com

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Server protocol HTTP/1.0  
Remote host: 12.2.97.22  
Remote IP address: 12.2.97.22

**From:** Michelle Altomare  
**To:** Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB, Commissioner Adelstein, 'request@boxer.senate.gov', Michael Copps  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 2:32 PM  
**Subject:** Media Decision

What is the FCC's purpose? I believe it is to protect our citizens with what goes over the airwaves in this country. How could you have voted to deregulate media ownership???! It is clearer than ever that BIG CORPORATIONS do in fact control this country and the elected that are to be there to protect the public. It is obvious that money had come into your decision on this vote. You should be ashamed and fearful of what has happened. If any of you have children, did you consider the effect this vote would have over their future and where this will lead? I know my concern for my young son's future keeps me awake at night not only with what this current administration is doing but the also the decisions of the people that are put in positions to protect us

How could any of you have such utter disregard of the voice of the people in this country and their cries for you not to do this? The large percentage of people are against this and yet that does not even enter your conscious, only greed controls all of you!!! With exception of course of the two of you who voted against this. You are all accountable to the citizens of this country and know that one day the time will come when your decisions will effect you personally in one way or another. Shame on you!!!

Regards,

Michelle Altomare  
Loan Consultant

**CC:** Dennis & Susanne Stefani [E-mail]

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**CC:** Dennis & Susanne Stefani [E-mail]

**From:** dchatign@northshore.edu  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 2:44 PM  
**Subject:** Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

Senator John McCain  
U S Senate  
241 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McCain,

I urge you to tell the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) not to weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of America's newspapers and radio and TV stations.

As you know, the FCC is reviewing rules currently for media ownership and is likely to allow big corporations to dominate ownership of media in a particular city or town. If that happens, one company may be allowed to own the local newspaper, several TV and radio stations and the cable TV system in the same community. There would be fewer owners of networks, stations and newspapers nationwide.

Media ownership would be concentrated among fewer companies and the public's ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints would be compromised. Plus, it likely would result in higher costs for businesses that advertise in local media, and those costs likely would be passed onto consumers.

The FCC is expected to vote on whether to change the rules on June 2. The public comments submitted to the FCC by individuals have been opposed to media consolidation overwhelmingly. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition.

Please tell the FCC to reinstate its traditional media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Diane Chatigny  
43 Washington ST  
Newburyport, Massachusetts 01950

cc



Senator Edward Kennedy  
Senator John Kerry  
Senator Ernest Hollings  
Representative John Tierney  
FCC Chairman Michael K. Powell  
FCC Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
FCC Commissioner Michael J. Capps  
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**From:** adbeprod@earthlink.net  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 3:08 PM  
**Subject:** Please Act to Stop Media Monopolies

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David Edwards  
2781 W. MacArthur Blvd  
unit B #307  
Santa Ana, California 92704

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Sincerely,

Virginia Collins  
5915 Newtown Avenue  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19120

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Richard Brown  
2661 First Ave  
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Senator Hillary Clinton  
Senator Charles Schumer  
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**From:** Doug Wendt  
**To:** Commissioner Adelstein  
**Date:** Thu, Jun 5, 2003 3:16 PM  
**Subject:** Great Falls' current crisis

Dear Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein.

I recently sent you my first response to Monday's ruling since you mentioned Great Falls, Montana in your presentation. Today KFBB TV (ABC) in Great Falls announced a huge cutback in their newcasts leaving only The Great Falls Tribune (see below). This is even more urgent than before. Here's a succinct view I sent to my members of the US Congress yesterday. Please read:

Message sent to:  
Senator Burns, Baucus and Rep. Rehberg, all from Montana  
Message text follows:

Doug Wendt  
14 20th Street North  
Great Falls, MT 59401

June 4, 2003

Dear Senator etc.,

I urge you to take swift action to overturn the FCC decisions that loosen the media ownership rules.

Great Falls, Montana was pointed out in the FCC proceedings as especially vulnerable. It is no accident that the Gannett run Tribune here successfully bullied over the past few years both a local alternative paper and plans to greatly diversify local public radio choices. And now they stand to gain the most from their monopolistic behaviour. This is not right.

KUFM, Montana Public Radio, generally reads from the Tribune in its only newscasts about this area. KRTV already has an agreement with The Tribune and their newscast is simulcast nightly on KMON radio, the only local news not read direct from the Tribune as the chains do. This is not about fear of what might happen. News from one source is what is already going on.

I will write you more details of this deplorable state of affairs so crucial to honest discourse and the economic and cultural vitality of our depressed region in a few days. Testimony about Great Falls' example, the only case highlighted during Monday's FCC hearing, should be included at any appropriate hearings in Congress or otherwise.

It's time to review what 20 years of radio deregulation actually accomplished, especially in Great Falls. After all radio & tv were once very lively & much more local here. When a tornado headed for town a couple years ago it was extremely difficult to find anything local on any



dial from any source. This very real situation prompts many other "What if?" local & national security concerns.

This very grave and vulnerable condition we find ourselves in should be addressed in an urgent manner.

On June 2nd, the FCC voted and revealed a process that was unfair, exclusionary, secretive, and unaccountable. Public input was received and ignored.

I am very concerned about local news, community programming, and preserving diverse voices on the airwaves. The FCC decision serves business interests but not the public interest.

America's airwaves are owned by the people, yet this unbalanced consolidation of the media hurts our democracy dearly.

Again, I urge you to take swift action to overturn the FCC decisions that loosen media ownership rules.

Sincerely,

Doug Wendt

cc: Chairman Michael K. Powell,  
Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy,  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps,  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin

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<http://join.msn.com/?page=features/junkmail>

**CC:** Michael Copps, Mike Powell, Kathleen Abernathy, KM KJMWEB